

REMARKS/ ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-16, 18-23, 25 and 26 are pending in the present application; no claims having been amended, added or canceled by way of the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, each of the pending claims was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 using a combination of Whitmarsh (U.S. 2002/0101608) in view of Matsueda et al. (U.S. 2001/0040692). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The current form of the claims are patentable over the prior art without any claim amendments. Taking independent Claim 1 as an example, there is an information providing part and a print request part. Specifically, in Claim 1, there is recited:

a print request part configured to distribute print data and a print request to one or more of the plurality of image forming apparatuses, wherein, when a print request that has been received includes a name of print data and a *function* of an image forming apparatus from the client terminal, the print request part extracts one or more addresses of one or more of the plurality of image forming apparatuses having the *function* included in the print request....

(*Emphasis Supplied.*) This feature related to the *function* is not disclosed or suggested by the prior art.

The claimed feature of the “function of an image forming apparatus” including “the function included in the print request” is neither disclosed nor suggested by any of the prior art including Matsueda et al. As background information, Figures 5-7 of this application contain various information and include in the right-most column a FUNCTION available for

printing for the various devices. As a further non-limiting example, the specification at p. 30, line 25 - p. 31, line 5 provides additional information of the function in the specification.¹

The outstanding Office Action at the middle portion of p. 3 acknowledges that Whitmarsh does not disclose features related to the functions of the selected one or more image forming apparatus. However, at the bottom of p. 3 and the top of p. 4 of the outstanding Office Action, the outstanding Office Action references paragraphs [0028] and [0062] of Matsueda. Examining Matsueda and specifically the paragraphs identified in the outstanding Office Action, the claimed features related to the function are not disclosed in the published patent application.

Referring to Figure 2 of Matsueda, element 203 is a RAM. There is nothing specific to this RAM or description which relates to the function, as claimed.

Referring to paragraph [0062] of Matsueda, this paragraph is only one sentence and states:

when the remote printing is performed, the address of the printing apparatus 106 is stored in the RAM 203 so that the address may be output for later confirmation.

Merely storing an address of a printing apparatus in the RAM 203 is completely unrelated to the function specified in the claim. More specifically, the print request part is required to extract “one or more addresses of one or more of the plurality of image forming apparatus having the function included in the print request.” This function in the printing request has not been addressed by the outstanding Office Action and is not disclosed or suggested by the prior art of record.

Accordingly, independent Claim 1 is patentable over the prior art.

¹ The reference to the specification is merely an exemplary implementation of the invention and such features should not be improperly read into the claims.

Independent Claim 14 is patentable for similar reasons as independent Claim 1 is patentable.

The dependent claims are patentable for at the reasons the independent claims from which they depend are patentable.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion, the present application is in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is requested.

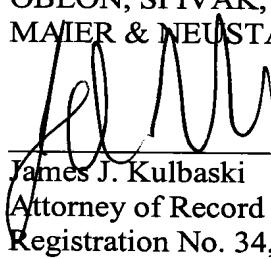
Respectfully submitted,

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